

Forest Site Preparation

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

NH-490



- In areas of grass, where site disturbance will improve diversity of native plants important to wildlife and pollinators such as golden rods and asters.

Considerations

- When possible this practice should be timed with a good cone year or seed year of the desired species.
- An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation and cultural resources.
- Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled by selecting sites with < 10% slopes and leaving appropriate buffers to water features.
- Soil compaction will be minimized by not selecting wet sites, or other sensitive areas, such as seeps, vernal pools.

Definition

Mechanized treatment of vegetation and soils to establish and encourage natural regeneration and/or prepare the area for planting or seeding.

Where used

- Typically on sandy soils in a pine shelterwood to encourage natural regeneration. And to develop dense areas young white pine which are important wildlife habitat.
- For equipment to press acorns into the ground following an oak shelterwood or seed tree cut in a good mast year.
- Prior to warm season grass plantings where other undesired vegetation can be reduced and a seed bed prepared. Also using the grouser cleats of an excavator to press in warm and cool season grasses ½ inch into the soil.
- In areas where heavy amounts of slash may reduce natural regeneration or make planting difficult.

Operation and maintenance

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NH NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and Supplemental Specifications for Forest Site Preparation, code 490 for specific requirements.

Forest Site Preparation – Job Sheet

<i>For:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Designed By:</i>	<i>Approved By:</i>
	<i>Signature:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Purpose (check all that apply)	
Site Preparation for: (check all that apply) (Refer to NH Standard & Specification Forest Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving Natural Regeneration after harvest	<input type="checkbox"/> Improving diversity in grass dominated openings
<input type="checkbox"/> Developing seed bed and pressing seed into the ground prior and during seeding.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Site Preparation Method (Refer to NH Standard & Specification Forest Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)				
Field	Acres	Method ¹	Date	Remarks

¹Specify method, - Options are:

Approved Activities for Forest Site Preparation

Harrowing, Disking or Plowing -used for cleared areas, sodded areas and on areas lightly covered with brush used to prepare seed beds, increase species diversity, encourage woody plants in sod.

Bull Dozer- blading -removal of all vegetation using a straight-blade dozer.

Bull Dozer- grouser cleats used to drive seed into the soil, works well for pollinator seeds and especially warm season grasses.

Scarification- Dragging a heavy object with a chain or by increasing soil disturbance with chains on skidder tires for example-- A desired method for increasing White Pine regeneration or pressing acorns into the soil for oak regeneration.